

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A system for sizing a tile on a computer display, the system comprising:
an automatic sizing routine for automatically sizing the tile during an automatic mode;
a manual sizing routine which allows a user to manually set the size of the tile; and
wherein when the user manually sets the size of the tile a manual mode is entered during which further automatic sizing of the tile is restricted.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the tile is provided in a sidebar area.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein once the manual mode is entered, the user may make a selection to return the tile to the automatic mode.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein a maximum size is set for the tile and in the manual mode a user is prevented from resizing the tile beyond the maximum size.
5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the maximum size for the tile may be set by the tile.
6. The system of Claim 1, wherein a maximum size is specified for a tile, and in order to automatically size the tile beyond the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.
7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the tile is located in a sidebar and the maximum size for the tile may be set by the sidebar.
8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for sizing a tile, the computer-readable medium comprising:
an automatic sizing component for automatically sizing the tile;
a manual sizing component, wherein the use of the manual sizing component places the tile in a manual mode; and

wherein when the tile is in the manual mode, the tile is restricted from being automatically resized.

9. The computer-readable medium of Claim 8, wherein a maximum size is specified for the tile and limitations are placed on sizing the tile above the maximum size.

10. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein in order to size the tile above the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.

11. The computer-readable medium of Claim 10, wherein the approval is obtained from the user through a notification that is provided to the user.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 8, further comprising a context menu with options that are provided for the tile.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the context menu options is for autosizing the tile.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein context menu options include one or more of move up, move down, or delete tile.

15. A system for resizing a tile on a display, the system comprising:
a computing device having a processor and a memory;
a display device communicatively coupled to the computing device for displaying a tile;
a routine for automatically resizing the tile; and
a routine for allowing a user to manually resize the tile.

16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising a sidebar area on the display device in which the tile is located and in which a plurality of additional tiles may be provided.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein a maximum size is set for the tile, and in order to resize the tile above the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the approval from the user is obtained through a notification that is provided to the user.

19. The system of Claim 15, further comprising a context menu that is provided with options for the tile.

20. In a computer system, a method for sizing a tile, the method comprising:
automatically sizing the tile;
allowing a user to manually set the size of the tile;
setting the tile in a manual mode when the user manually sets the size of the tile; and
wherein while the tile is in the manual mode, preventing the tile from being automatically resized.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein a sidebar area is provided for the tile and a plurality of additional tiles, and the available space in the sidebar is a factor in the automatic sizing of the tile.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein an additional factor in the automatic sizing of the tile is the amount of space that the tile requires for displaying its content.

23. The method of Claim 20, wherein a maximum size is set for the tile.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein in order to automatically size the tile above the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the approval is obtained from the user through a notification that asks the user whether or not the tile should be allowed to be automatically resized to the new size.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein once the user approves the new size, additional resizing may be performed without further approval, and if the new size is not approved, the tile is placed in a mode which restricts further automatic resizing.

27. In a computer system with a display, a method for sizing a tile on the display, the method comprising:

providing the tile on the display; and

automatically resizing the tile a plurality of times based at least in part on changes in the content that is to be displayed in the tile.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein a sidebar area is provided on the display in which the tile and a plurality of additional tiles are located.

29. The method of Claim 27, wherein a user is able to manually resize a tile.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein when a user manually resizes a tile a manual mode is entered, and wherein during the manual mode the tile may not be automatically resized.

31. The method of Claim 27, wherein a maximum size is specified for a tile.

32. The method of Claim 31, wherein in order to automatically resize a tile over the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.

33. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for sizing a tile, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a tile component for providing the tile on a display; and

an automatic resizing component for automatically resizing the tile a plurality of times.

34. The computer-readable medium of Claim 33, further comprising a context menu component for providing a context menu with options for a tile.

35. The computer-readable medium of Claim 34, wherein the context menu options include an option for automatically resizing the tile.

36. The computer-readable medium of Claim 35, wherein additional context menu options include options for one or more of moving the tile up or down or deleting the tile.

37. The computer-readable medium of Claim 33, wherein a maximum size is specified for a tile, and in order to automatically resize the tile above the maximum size, approval must be obtained from the user.

38. The computer-readable medium of Claim 33, wherein the automatic resizing of the tile is in some instances based at least in part on changes to content that is to be displayed in the tile.

39. The computer-readable medium of Claim 33, wherein a minimum time interval is established to prevent the tile from being automatically resized too frequently.

40. The computer-readable medium of Claim 39, wherein the minimum time interval is used to prevent the tile from being automatically resized smaller, but the tile is allowed to be automatically resized larger, regardless of whether the minimum time interval has been reached.

41. A system for resizing a tile on a computer display, the system comprising:
a computing device having a processor and a memory;
a display device communicatively coupled to the computing device for displaying a plurality of tiles;
a routine for providing the tile on the display; and
a routine for automatically resizing the tile a plurality of times.

42. The system of Claim 41, further comprising a manual resizing routine which allows a user to manually resize the tile, wherein when a user manually resizes a tile a

manual sizing mode is entered, wherein during the manual sizing mode the tile may not be automatically resized.

43. The system of Claim 41, wherein the tile is located in a sidebar and a maximum size is specified for the tile by the sidebar, and the tile may only be automatically resized above the maximum size if approval is obtained from the user.

44. The system of Claim 43, wherein if the user does not provide approval for resizing the tile above the maximum size, then the tile enters a manual sizing mode.

45. The system of Claim 43, wherein if the user approves the new size for the tile that is above the maximum size, then further automatic resizing of the tile may be done without requiring further approval from the user.

46. The system of Claim 41, wherein a tile may specify a maximum size for itself which may not be overridden by a user.